[19th November 1930

*Visits of non-official visitors to jails.*

*19 Q.—Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: Will the hon the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of visits made by the non-official visitors to each of the District and Central Jails from March to October 1930;

(b) the recommendations made or impressions recorded by them; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in respect of such recommendations?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to rules 27 and 28 of the Madras Jail Manual. The Government are addressed only when the Jail authorities are not competent to take action on any particular recommendation.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"Is it a fact that visitors to jails should wear a particular dress?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"There is no such rule."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"For example, about Gandhi caps, are non-official visitors to jails allowed to wear Gandhi caps?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"It is left to the visitors to wear whatever dress they please."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I know whether the Government have asked non-official visitors to persuade political prisoners to apologise?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"No; discretion is left to the non-official visitors to jails to give such advice as is permitted by the Jail Manual."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I know if they have been doing so?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"Government are not aware of the advice given by them."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I know whether non-official visitors have been instructed orally or in writing to persuade some of the prisoners to apologise and save the country from discredit?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"No, Sir."

*The number of persons convicted for political offences.*

*20 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of prisoners convicted of political offences up to date and the number now in the various jails of the Presidency;

(b) how many of them were placed in each of the classes A, B and C;

(c) how many of the said political prisoners are females and how many males;

(d) what was the offence for which the females were convicted and in which jails these female prisoners are placed;

19th November 1930]

(e) the number of political prisoners that have been released up to date and the reasons on which they have been released; and

(f) the number of cases in which the husbands are in one class and their wives in a different class and the reasons for the difference?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (a) and (c) of question No. 18. On 6th September 1930, there were 3,719 prisoners convicted of political offences, of whom 60 were in 'A' class and 393 in 'B' class.

(c) to (f) The Government have no information.

Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar:—"May I know whether the hon. Law Member has considered the effect of the judgment of the High Court in the matter relating to Gandhi cap in Guntur, and whether the matter has been examined and whether the Government have considered some of the points that have arisen in that connection in other cases and what the results have been?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"The same point has not arisen in any other case: so there was no occasion for the Government to examine the question."

Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja:—"May I know whether lady prisoners are allowed to wear bangles?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja:—"May I know if the hon. Law Member is aware that some of the lady prisoners have sent their bangles to one of the Swarajists in Madras telling them that they are women and that ladies are men?"

The hon Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"That is a matter entirely between the women prisoners and the Swarajists."

*Number of persons convicted for political offences.*

*21 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of persons convicted in each district this year up to the end of last month for political offences; and

(b) the number of persons put in A, B and C classes respectively among the political convicts in each district?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the answers to clauses (a) and (c) of question No. 18 and clauses (a) and (b) of question No. 20. 11-30 a.m.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether the Government will call for the information asked for in the question?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"That is what I have stated in the answer to question No. 18. And if my Friend wants further information, I shall consider his suggestion."